

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-18 (Canceled)

19. (New) A punctal plug, for insertion into a punctum-canalculus, comprising a shaft, a tip portion attached to one end of the shaft, a brim attached to the other end of the shaft, and a loop of fine thread for pulling out the punctal plug, when the brim has become lodged in the canalculus, by simultaneously pulling both ends of the fine thread, the thread penetrating at least one of the tip portion, the shaft and the brim in a manner allowing the fine thread to be pulled out of the punctal plug by pulling one end of the fine thread, the thread terminating at two free ends extending from the punctal plug and having a diameter of 0.05 mm or less.

20. (New) The punctal plug defined in Claim 19, wherein the brim is disc-shaped.

21. (New) The punctal plug defined in claim 19, wherein the diameter of the brim is 0.4 mm or less.

22. (New) The punctal plug defined in claim 20, wherein the diameter of the brim is 0.4 mm or less.

23. (New) The punctal plug defined in claim 19, wherein a protuberance is attached to the tip portion.

24. (New) The punctal plug defined in claim 20, wherein a protuberance is attached to the tip portion.

25. (New) The punctal plug defined in claim 21, wherein a protuberance is attached to the tip portion.

26. (New) The punctal plug defined in claim 19, wherein the diameter of the thread is 0.02 - 0.05 mm.